Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A purified polypeptide consisting of:

(a) a variant of

(i) a wild-type ICOS amino acid sequence consisting of an extracellular domain of wild-type ICOS, the wild-type ICOS extracellular domain being SEQ ID NO:10 or SEQ ID NO:9, or

(ii) a wild-type ICOS amino acid sequence consisting of a fragment of at least [[8]] 15 amino acids of the extracellular domain,

the variant:

consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs by one or more amino acid substitutions from, but is at least [[75%]] 85% homologous to, its corresponding wild-type ICOS amino acid sequence; and

having altered affinity for human B7-H2 compared to its corresponding wild-type ICOS amino acid sequence, wherein said ~~altered~~ affinity for human B7-H2 is ~~at least 6% of~~ increased by at least 10% relative to the affinity of the corresponding wild-type ICOS amino acid sequence for human B7-H2; or

(b) the variant of (a) and: (I) a peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS attached to the N-terminus of the variant of (a); (II) a peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS attached to the C-terminus of the variant of (a); or (III) a peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS attached to the N-terminus of the variant of (a) and a peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS attached to the C-terminus of the variant of (a).

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the variant differs from its corresponding wild-type amino acid sequence at a position corresponding to amino acid 76 of SEQ ID NO:12.

4. (Previously Presented) The purified polypeptide of claim 3, wherein, in the variant, the amino acid at the position corresponding to said amino acid 76 of SEQ ID NO:12 is glutamine.

5. (Currently Amended) The purified polypeptide of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the variant differs from its corresponding wild-type amino acid sequence at a position corresponding to amino acid 52 of SEQ ID NO:12.

6. (Previously Presented) The purified polypeptide of claim 5, wherein, in the variant, the amino acid at the position corresponding to said amino acid 52 of SEQ ID NO:12 is serine.

7. (Previously Presented) The purified polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said variant is capable of inhibiting T cell activation in a T cell proliferation assay.

8. (Withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes the polypeptide of claim 1.

9-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting T cell activation, comprising contacting an antigen-presenting cell with the purified polypeptide of claim 1~~, wherein said polypeptide is capable of binding to B7-H2 with increased affinity relative to its corresponding wild-type ICOS amino acid sequence~~.

13. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said variant comprises a Ser76Glu mutation.

14. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said variant comprises a Lys52Ser mutation.

15. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) A method for inhibiting T cell activation in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an amount of the purified polypeptide of claim 1 that is capable of inhibiting a T cell response in said subject.

16. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said variant comprises a Ser76Glu mutation.

17. (Withdrawn - Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein said variant comprises a Lys52Ser mutation.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said subject has an autoimmune disease.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said subject has rheumatoid arthritis.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said subject has systemic lupus erythematosus.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein said subject has diabetes mellitus.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein said subject is a transplant recipient.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for making an ICOS polypeptide, comprising culturing the cell of claim 11 and isolating said ICOS polypeptide from said culture.

24. (Previously Presented) The purified polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the peptide sequence unrelated to the ICOS or the second peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS is a blocking agent that facilitates survival of the polypeptide *in vivo*.

25. (Previously Presented) The purified polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the peptide sequence unrelated to the ICOS or the second peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS is a tag amino acid sequence.

26. (Previously Presented) The purified polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the peptide sequence unrelated to the ICOS or the second peptide sequence unrelated to ICOS is an immunoglobulin Fc fragment sequence.

27. (Canceled)